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MADRID PAPER INTERVIEWS DOST ON SITUATION

PM021247 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 27 Jan 82 p 6

[Ismael Lopez Munoz interview in Kabul with Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost: "Afghan Government Prepared to Discuss All Territorial Problems With Pakistan and Iran" -- date of interview not given]

[Text] Kabul -- The entire country is under arms. The tanks are lords and masters of the situation. Helicopters and combat aircraft guard the airports of the Afghan cities. Life in the cities lasts from sunrise to sunset. At nightfall everybody immures himself, afraid of a potential enemy. Nevertheless, Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost was optimistic and rejected the terms of our question, when we asked him whether an early end to the war is possible.

"There is no war in Afghanistan. All we know is that we are being attacked by enemies from the other side of the border with Pakistan. It is a struggle against terrorists who are employing sabotage against the population. Our armed forces are the security forces," he emphatically told the EL PAIS special correspondents.

However, he was clearer and more forthcoming when we asked about the intention to resolve the current situation as rapidly as possible. "The Afghan Government is prepared to discuss all territorial problems, without any precondition, between Pakistan and Afghanistan. We wish to hold talks at the highest levels with Iran and Pakistan. We believe that the best vehicle is the UN secretary general, who could act as a negotiator between our countries."

Minister Dost was not so categorical when we asked him about numbers. As regards the Soviet military personnel on Afghan territory, who exceed 95,000 according to what we have learned from semiofficial sources in Moscow, the Afghan politician preferred to evade this. "Only the Ministry of Defense knows the figures, and it is a state secret. I assure you that the Western press never approaches the truth, but that is natural, because it forms part of the propaganda against our country."

The conversation became strained when we dwelt on the 2.5 million Afghans who have crossed the border, fleeing from Karmal's regime to Pakistan. "I do not know whether you know that for centuries the nomads have been coming and going through our countries annually. If you regard each migration as a flight, we will not correct you every month. It is also true that many of those who cross accept the propaganda and join the counterrevolutionaries. The fact is that 90 percent return each year, despite the current situation. You speak to me of 2.5 million. The official figures of an international body put them at under 1 million per year who come and go. Draw whatever conclusions you please."

Toll of War

The figures cited by the Western news media indicate that there are now 9,000 fatalities in the Soviet Army, 20,000 in the Afghan population and only 1,000 among the counter-revolutionaries. Shah Mohammad Dost looked at us with surprise while we put the facts to him, and replied emphatically: "Let the Western news media cease to be mistaken. The Soviet Armed Forces are here to assist us, and their activity in the struggle against the bandits is limited. The Afghan Army is the only army taking part in the struggle against outside attacks. It is the Afghan people, as you will be able to ascertain during your stay in my country, who are defending themselves. There are no missiles or napalm. The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) is directing all the actions to defend itself. The Soviet Union is Afghanistan's great and sole friend, and our people understand this, realize this and are on very good terms with those who have come to assist us."

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MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY DESTROY 20 MIG'S, GUNSHIPS

GF011410 Karachi NAWA-E-WAQT in Urdu 27 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] London, 26 Jan (AAP) -- The freedom fighters in Afghanistan have made a lightning attack on Baghram airport, from which most of the antimujahidin attacks emanate, and destroyed 20 MiG's and helicopter gunships. This largest operation against Soviet attackers in the last 2 years of organized guerrilla fighting produced major losses never before inflicted in one operation.

The attack was so sudden and intense that Soviet troops attacked Karmal forces in the eastern sector, presuming that they would defect to the mujahidin. According to reports reaching Pakistan, on the night of 7-8 January, mujahidin commanders of the Ettehad-e Eslami group led a three-pronged attack from the northeast, northwest and southwest.

The commanders were the magistrate of (Ghorvand) Valley, Commander Niazi of (Andarab) Valley and (Qarahbagh's) Captain Shahed. The freedom fighters were equipped with mortars and new rocket launchers which some of those who had joined the mujahidin recently had brought along with them.

KARACHI PAPER: MUJAHIDIN REWARD DEFECTORS

GF011307 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 25 Jan 82 p 6

[Text] London, 24 Jan (AAP) -- Three soldiers of (Zarmat) cantonment have fled with their ammunition and a mortar and joined the ranks of the mujahidin, who rewarded them with 5,000 afghanis each.

It may be recalled that the (Zarmat) cantonment is surrounded by the mujahidin. Food and arms are conveyed to the besieged soliders by helicopter.

BRIEFS

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR HAVANA -- Kabul, 3 Feb (BAKHTAR) -- An Afghan delegation headed by Sattar Pordeli, president of the central council of the trade unions of Afghanistan, left for Cuba today. The Afghan delegation will take part in the tenth world congress of the trade unions to be held in Havana from February 10 to 15. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0422 GMT 4 Feb 82 LD]

AID FROM GDR -- A plane loaded with aid from the GDR solidarity committee to the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization landed today at Kabul International Airport and the respective document of this grant-in-aid was given to the secretary of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization by the GDR ambassador in Kabul. The aid was accepted with thanks. Prior to the presentation of the document, speeches were exchanged between the ambassador and the secretary in charge on the good relations and cooperation between the two countries. The grant-in-aid goods from the friendly country of the GDR weighed more than 8 tons, comprising medical supplies, sewing machines, children's clothing and sports equipment, which will be distributed to the Democratic Womens Organization of Afghanistan, Pioneers organization and the Watan nursery. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jan 82 LD]

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GOVERNMENT TALKS WITH PAKISTAN ENDORSED

BK041611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Members of the parliamentary consultative committee of the External Affairs Ministry have endorsed and supported the government's handling of the recent talks with Pakistan.

At the meeting of the committee held in New Delhi today, members repeatedly said that the process of negotiations and the results achieved so far were well received by the nation. Some said that even in Pakistan there was appreciation of how the prime minister and the external affairs minister handled the negotiations. There was a general belief that the talks have cleared the atmosphere and it was hoped that concrete results will emerge.

A member said that while we should strive for peace, we should also be prepared to meet any eventuality.

Narasimha Rao told the members that the negotiations between India and Pakistan are at a resolving stage. When the two countries get down to the stage of drafting any agreement specific formulations and original questions of principles will be further discussed.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry briefing newsmen later said that today's meeting was called to discuss India's foreign policy options and projections in the present decade.

Rao said that while the fundamental policy will remain unchanged, the situation may demand some changes in the application. Members' views on these matters will be considered by the government.

During the discussion, members referred to the role of the superpowers, Indian Ocean and the need for enlarging the consensus among the nonaligned countries. Some members felt that India should actively participate in building a South Asian community.

About China, members said that India should keep up the dialogue and make it at least neutral toward us.

PATRIOT RAPS REAGAN STATE OF UNION MESSAGE

BK041553 Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Jan 82 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Bellicosity"]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan in his state of the union message has revealed a state of mind that would do battle in Europe, in the Caribbean and in Africa. His was an enunciation of foreign policy that bodes ill for the world. In his diplomacy, the cornerstone of which is confrontation with the Soviet Union around the globe, he has hinted at plans for "the neighbours to the south" with special reference to Cuba. He has all but had President al-Qadhdhafi of Libya assassinated and in Europe, as elsewhere, he is preparing to deal with the Soviet Union from "a position of strength" -- a state which a group of Soviet generals have assured him he will never achieve.

A "position of strength" is a state of the mind. The military balance maintains an equilibrium only so long as one of the contenders has no evil intentions to pre-empt the other. The United States and NATO already have a surfeit of weaponry and their lack of equality with the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact nations in one type of weapons system is offset by qualitative and quantitative superiority in others. Thus, while the United States has marginally fewer intercontinental ballistic missile [ICBM] launchers and submarine-based missiles, it has more nuclear warheads capable of being delivered by its ICBMS, submarines and its decidedly larger bomber fleet.

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ZIRAY, NUR ATTEND AIR FORCE PARTY CONFERENCE

LD152120 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] A party conference of the political department of the air force and the air defense force opened yesterday at the air force and air defense headquarters. The conference, which is a result of the valuable resolutions of the Seventh PDPA Central Committee Plenum, was attended by Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee.

The Presidium, the Secretariat, the credentials commission and the secretarial board were elected at the beginning of the meeting. Then diploma engineer Lt Col Dost Mohammad, head of political affairs in the air force and air defense force, presented a compresensive report on the work of party organizations, the combat activities of units and relevant companies, the importance of the PDPA Central Committee plenums and, in particular, the role and importance of the resolutions of the Seventh PDPA Central Committee Plenum. The report was warmly welcomed by the audience.

Subsequently, 11 participants in the conference spoke in affirmation of the basic statement and vowed to make every self-sacrifice by themselves and by their relevant personnel in order to achieve the high aims of the party and government. A resolution was then issued unanimously supporting the resolutions of the Seventh PDPA Central Committee Plenum.

Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, in turn, made statements and drew the attention of the audience to their assigned tasks and duties under the present circumstances in the country.

In conclusion, 16 party members were elected as representatives to take part in the PDPA national conference.

KESHTMAND ELECTED DELEGATE TO PDPA CONFERENCE

LD170755 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0417 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Kabul, 16 Feb (BAKHTAR) -- Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee [CC] of the PDPA and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, was unanimously elected as a delegate to the forthcoming PDPA countrywide conference in a grand meeting held at the neadquarters of the chief of general staffs of the Ministry of National Defence of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA CC, and Dr. Najibollah, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA, were also present at the meeting.

Among the other speakers, Nur Ahmad Nur delivered a comprehensive speech on the importance of the forthcoming PDPA countrywide conference in further strengthening the combatant party ranks and the significant role of the army in the defence of the revolution.

Lieutenant General Baba Jan, the alternate member of the Central Committee of the PDPA and chief of general staffs, and Lieutenant General 'Abdol Qader, member of the Central Committee of the PDPA and caretaker of the Ministry of the National Defence of the DRA, also spoke on the indefatigable struggles and battles of the armed forces fought towards the elimination of the counter-revolutionary bands and (?deferred the) proceedings of (?the) session to the political maturity and ideological consciousness of the participants of the meeting.

At the end of the conference, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand expressed his appreciation for the confidence accorded to him by the participants of the meeting to represent them at the forthcoming PDPA countrywide conference.

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COURT 'QUASHES' EX-PRESIDENT'S CONVICTION

BK180319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The Bangladesh Supreme Court has quashed the conviction of former President Khondakar Moshtaq Ahmad.

He has already served 4 years out of a 5-year imprisonment. Ahmad was convicted on charges of corruption by the special military court in 1977.

GOVERNMENT SEIZURE OF NEWSPAPER RULED ILLEGAL

BK181155 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Dacca, 18 Feb (AFP) -- The Bangladesh High Court has declared the government takeover of the country's leading English daily, THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, illegal and asked the authorities to return the newspaper to its owner within 2 months.

The newspaper was taken over by the government following the liberation of the country in 1971. Known as the PAKISTAN OBSERVER before independence, it was owned by Hamidul Haq Chowdhury, a retired politician and a former foreign minister of Pakistan.

During Bangladesh's war of independence with Pakistan, Mr Chowdhury was in former West Pakistan and was declared as "collaborator" by the post-liberation government in Dacca. THE OBSERVER was taken over by the government under the abandoned property act.

A few years ago, the Bangladesh Government restored his citizenship and allowed him to return home. He also got back most of his personal property, including his house, but the government tried to retain THE OBSERVER, which had associate publications such as now-closed Bengali daily PURBADESH, and the popular cine-weekly CHITRALI.

Mr Chowdhury petitioned the High Court reclaiming ownership of the paper. In upholding his application, the court allowed the government a certificate to contest its decision before the Supreme Court appellate division.

BRIEFS

ISLAMIC BANK AID -- The Islamic Development Bank will finance a foreign trade operation in favor of Bangladesh for the import of raw cotton from Pakistan worth $5.14 million. An agreement to this effect was signed at the bank's headquarters in Jidda on 15 February. Earlier this year, the bank had financed two other foreign trade operations for the import of oil and cotton totalling over $14 million by Bangladesh. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 15 Feb 82 BK]

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SOVIET HELICOPTER SAID DOWNED BY AFGHANS

TA231742 London BBC World Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Reports reaching Delhi from the Afghan capital Kabul say antigovernment guerillas in Afghanistan have shot down a helicopter carrying a Soviet general. The reports say he was Lt Gen Piotr Shkidschenko, a former deputy commander of the Soviet forces in East Germany. The general, three other Russians and an Afghan aboard the helicopter were killed. The helicopter was said to have crashed in Paktia province, southeast of Kabul, after it was hit by rocket fire. The incident was said to have taken place 5 weeks ago. At the time, the Soviet army newspaper RED STAR reported that General Shkidchenko had been killed in an air crash, but it did not give any details.

KARMAL ADDRESSES LAND REFORM MEETING 23 FEB

GF240729 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, today attended a grant meeting on the continuation of just and democratic land reform and water conservation in the DRA. Ministry officials and local and party officials attended the meeting, which was held in Delkoshah Palace, headquarters of the Revolutionary Council.

Babrak Karmal delivered a speech on the importance of continuing the just and democratic (?distribution) of land and water. The meeting was opened with a recitation from the Holy Koran and the playing of the DRA national anthem.

In part of his speech, Babrak Karmal said that the Sawr national and democratic revolution has been successful under our party. He noted that its main goal and aim is the completion of democratic land reform, which it considers to be an important issue.

SECURITY FORCES ROUT TERRORISTS IN QONDUZ

GF231800 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] A group of rebels who were causing disruption of the noble people of Hazrat Imam county of the Qonduz Province in the northern Afghanistan have been crushed by the security forces (?in defense) of revolution of that region. The ringleader of these rebels, (Abdul Majid), has been crushed in these operations while three members of these bandits, exported from abroad, have been arrested.

A source of the security forces said a large quantity of assorted weapons and various types of [word indistinct] has been seized from these bandits of Hazrat Imam county.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA -- Dr Habib Mangal, the DRA ambassador to USSR, who has been also appointed Afghan ambassador to Romania, presented his credentials to Nicolae Ceausescu, the president of Romania, in Bucharest on 23 February. [Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 23 Feb 82 GF]

DRA-USSR MOVIE -- The Afghan film making institute signed an agreement in Kabul on 23 February with the State Committee for Cinematography of the USSR for making a movie named "The Hot Summer in Kabul" as a joint venture. [Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 23 Feb 82 GF]

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